



CITY COUNCIL

Public Works Committee

Tuesday, February 17, 2009
Meeting Report

Committee Members Attending: M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, D. Sterner; S. Fuhs

Others Attending: L. Kelleher; C. Younger, M. Vind, R. Hottenstein, C. Jones, and T. McMahon

Federal Stimulus Package

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz requested an update on the City's stance on the application process and readiness for the upcoming Federal Stimulus Package.

Mr. Hottenstein explained that a portion of the Stimulus Package is intended to fund roadway projects that are ready for construction within 90 to 180 days. Funding will pass down through either the State or through CDBG allocations. The Stimulus Package will also benefit fire departments and infrastructure projects. He stated that the City is considering a variety of projects. Mr. Jones stated that he is unsure if the Stimulus Package can cover paving and repaving projects. He noted that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is not considered a shovel ready project.

Mr. Fuhs inquired if the Stimulus Package will cover bridge repair. Mr. Jones replied affirmatively noting that three bridges that require repair are the following:

- Penn Street Bridge - owned by the State
- Bingham Street Bridge - owned by the State
- Buttonwood Street Bridge - owned by the County

He added that the State is currently considering if the Penn Street Bridge should be repaired or replaced. The City will have the State's decision by early April.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz inquired if any of the other sewer projects like the 6th and Canal Pumping Station would be considered ready to go. Mr. Jones stated that the tunnel method could be considered shovel ready, as it can be bid out quickly, along with the new administration/lab building on Fritz's Island.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that the Administration consider also applying for Stimulus funds to cover the repair of Bernhart's Dam and the Skyline wall. She noted that the Skyline wall was a federally funded project during the Depression. Mr. Jones noted that the majority of the Skyline Wall is not located within city limits.

Mr. Sterner inquired if the Stimulus Package could cover the extension of River Road. Mr. Jones replied that the extension of this roadway will take place in two phases: 1) Buttonwood Street to Spring Street and 2) Spring Street to Centre Avenue. He added that the Spring Street to Centre Avenue is less certain than the first phase. He noted that both would provide the traffic relief for the Berkshire Bottling project.

East Ends Contract

Mr. Hottenstein stated that a draft temporary lease agreement has been drafted. He suggested that the City and East Ends use this until the negotiation process is completed. He also suggested increasing East Ends lease payment to \$1,000 per month with the temporary lease agreement. The negotiation process is expected to conclude by the end of 2009. He noted that East Ends has not had a rent increase since 1996-97.

Ms. Kelleher recapped that East Ends began using the property in 1937 and started paying the City \$125 per month in the 1960's. This monthly payment continued until the lease was renegotiated in 1996-97, when the monthly payment was increased to \$500. She added that the last renegotiation also required East Ends to begin paying their own utilities. She also noted that in 2001, the City filed with the County Assessment Board to exempt the property taxes. Although East Ends was required to pay property taxes for this property, they did not. It is unclear if the City paid the County and School taxes for this property before the exemption was approved.

Mr. Hottenstein stated that the building was inspected by the Health Inspector on January 22. A re-tour is scheduled for the week of February 23rd. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz announced her desire to go along on the re-tour.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz and Mr. Sterner suggested that Mr. Hottenstein apply a more modest increase with the Temporary Lease Agreement. They noted that an increase this extreme may force East Ends out of the building. They noted that East Ends, as with other similar organizations, has experienced a decrease in membership. Mr. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that East Ends has been a good tenant since 1937. Mr. Sterner suggested increasing the lease payment to \$750.

Bernhart's Park and Dam

This topic will be covered in Committee of the Whole, at the conclusion of the Administrative Oversight Committee meeting.

CIP

Mr. Hottenstein stated that amendments to that approved with the budget process would be presented for introduction at the February 23rd regular meeting.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if the pond in front of the bandshell will be removed. Mr. Jones replied that the pond will be repaired and relocated to the side of the bandshell. The lawn in front of the bandshell will also be terraced. The park lighting will also be repaired and upgraded. Ms. Kelleher noted that the lights in the playground area are very dim. Mr. Jones stated that the scheduled repair project will correct the electrical problems in the park.

Firing Range

Mr. Jones stated that the survey work is underway. Ms. Mayfield will present the accompanying zoning amendment within the next month.

The Public Works Committee adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk